



Release Highlights: August 8, 2005

MONTANA

County Business Patterns, 2003

<http://ceic.mt.gov/CntyBusPat.htm>

“Shake, rattle and roll” not only describes the recent seismic activity in Montana but also the state’s shifting industrial structure. A 21st century transformation is underway as labor and capital intensive industries lose employees and establishments while knowledge-based and service sectors increase workers and firms. The U.S. Census Bureau recently released the *2003 County Business Patterns*, which details such business statistics as employment, number of establishments, establishment size, and annual payroll for each of the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) sectors. According to the 2003 report, nearly 303,000 Montanans work at 33,831 firms

Professional, Scientific and Technical Services firms, employing lawyers, engineers, and architects plus others, hired over 3,600 new workers for a healthy 30% rise from 1998 to 2003. Employees in this sector use their expertise, education and high-end technology, to produce services. Health Care, another knowledge and technology-based industrial sector, augmented their workforce by nearly 6,000, the largest increase from 1998 to 2003.

Conversely, there were nearly 600 fewer workers in the Utilities sector in 2003 than in 1998, a decline of 17%. Manufacturing in Montana followed the national trend, reducing employment by over 2,400, the largest decline of employment for all sectors. Both of these industries traditionally employ more workers per establishment and utilize large machines to produce various goods and services.

Overall, from 1998 to 2003, Montana’s economy added over 25,000 employees and over 2,800 establishments, with both realizing a growth rate of 9.3%.

Top Industries in Employment and Establishments

Sector	Employees	Sector	Establishments
Retail Trade	53,456	Retail Trade	5,196
Health Care	51,238	Construction	4,530
Accommodations & Food Services	41,151	Accommodations & Food Services	3,294

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Economic Census Reports:
Manufacturing; Utilities

July 28, 2005

Survey of Business Owners,
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July 21, 2005

Housing Unit Estimates by
State and County, 2004

June 30, 2005

City/Town Population
Estimates, 2004

June 23, 2005

Gross State Product, 2004

UPCOMING RELEASES

August 2005

Estimates of State and
County Population by Age,
Sex, Race and Hispanic
Origin: July 1, 2004

Fall 2005

Economic Census Reports:
Construction; Finance and
Insurance; Transportation
and Warehousing